

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend lines 20-25 of page 4 as follows:

A naphthalene ring-opening catalyst for forming high cetane number distillates having high degree of linear paraffins is disclosed in ~~WO 00/08156~~ WO 02/08156. The catalyst comprises iridium and an effective amount of metals of group VIII, such as platinum, rhodium and/or ruthenium. The catalyst composition is especially effective in opening compounds containing C₆ naphthene rings to C₅ naphthene rings bearing at least one tertiary carbon.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 26 of page 4 and ending on line 2 of page 5 as follows:

~~WO 00/08157~~ WO 02/08157 discloses a catalyst system comprising naphthene ring-isomerising catalyst (50-90 %) and naphthene ring-opening catalyst (50-10 %). The isomerising catalyst contains a specific metal supported on a first catalyst support for isomerising compounds containing C₆ naphthene rings to C₅ naphthene rings, preferably platinum or palladium on alumina. The naphthene ring-opening catalyst contains another specific metal on a second catalyst support, for ring-opening compound containing naphthene rings, preferably iridium on alumina.

Please amend 4-12 of page 5 as follows:

~~WO 00/08158~~ WO 02/08157 teaches the use of a catalyst for naphthenic ring-opening of distillates, comprising group VIII metal e.g. iridium, platinum, palladium, rhodium and/or ruthenium, supported on a substrate (e.g. alumina modified with magnesium) having at least one group IB, IIB and IVA metal in an amount effective to moderate cracking of naphthene ring containing feed to form methane. The catalyst also suppresses dealkylation of any pendant substituents optionally present in the ring structure. The catalyst exhibits desirable tertiary bond cleavage activity. Said method provides relatively high contents of linear and less branched paraffins and the preferred ring-opening catalyst compositions are Ir-Cu, Ir-Sn, Pt-Ir-Sn, Pt-Cu and Pt-Sn.